## (ESTABLISHED 1877.)

TO CARE FOR HIM WHO HAS DORNE THE BATTLE, AND FOR WIS WIDOW AND ORPHANE. " - ADRAHAM LINCOLN. "THE VALIDITY OF THE PURES DEET OF THE UNITED STATES, AUTHORIZED BY LAW, INCLUDING DEBTS INCURRED FOR PAYMENT OF PERSIONS AND BOUNTIES FOR SERVICES IN SUP-TIONED. -- SEC. 4, ART. KIV, COMPTITUTION OF THE UNITED

CONSIDER IT THE ABLEST PAPER DEVOTED TO THE INTER-ESTS OF THE SOUDIER PUBLISHED IN THE COUNTRY. | EARNESTLY COMMEND IT TO ALL COMPADES OF THE CITCURA PAUL VANDERFOORT,

## PUBLISHED WEEKLY. One Dollar per Year.

FOTERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION - INVARIABLY CASH IN ADVANCE. MONEY SORWARDED OTHERWISE THAN BY RECIS-POSTAL NOTES, POSTAL MONEY ORDER, OR DRAFT ON NEW YORK, WILL BE AT THE MEN OF THE SENDER, AS ALSO ALL SUSCICIOFTABLE PAID TO ASSENTE

THE DATE WHEN THEIR SUBSCRIPTION WILL EXPIRE BY LOOKING THE SAME AS THAT OF THE WHOLE QUALLER " OF THE LAST ADDRESSES. - ADDRESSES WILL DE CHANGED AS DITEN AS DESIRED, BUT SUBSORISERS SHOULD IN ALL CASES

GIVE THEIR OLD AS WELL AS NEW ADDRESS. APPOORRESPONDENCE, CORNESPONDENCE IS SOLICITED FROM EVERY SECTION IN REGARD TO ALL GRAND ARMY, PENSION, MILITARY, AGRICULTURAL, INDUSTRIAL AND HOUSEHOLD MAY-TERE, AND LETTING TO THE EDITOR WILL ALWAYS RECEIVE WRITE ON ONE SIDE OF THE PAPER

40 CTS. : THREE LOVES DE CTS. OTHER TRANSFERT ADVERTIS-ING, 40 CENTS PER LINE. THIRTEEN INSERTIONS TO PER CENT. DISCOUNT | THESTY-GIK INSERTIONS IN PER CENT. DISCOUNT ; PHTY-TWO INSERTIONS SO PER CENT. DISCOUNT. READING MOTICES, 60 CERTS PER LINE. ADDRESS ALL LETTERS

THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE, 615 FIFTEENTH ST., WASHINGTON, D. C.

ENTERED AT THE MAININGTON MUST-DIFFEE AS SECOND-CLASS MATTER.

WASHINGTON, D. C., NOVEMBER 22, 1883,

To any person who will send us a club of ten new subscribers to THE TRIBUNE we will present Waterbury watch, inclosed in a handsome satin-lined case, and warranted to keep accurate time. Here is an unlimited opportunity for Christmas presents.

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8th Page. - Our Growing Country. - Fort Doxson (continued from 1st page).-ADVERTISE-

To what better use can you put a dollar paying the subscription of some needy commide who is too poor to subscribe for THE TRIBUNE himself?

WHEN you have dispatched your Thanksgiving Day dinner, take a turn among your neighbors and see what you can do towards raising a club of TRIEUNE subscribers.

In another column of THE TRIBUNE, this week, we print a charming Thanksgiving story from the pen of Mrs. Kate Brownlee Sherwood, Vice-President of the Woman's National Relief Corps.

THE number of pension certificates issued and signed during the week ending November 17th, was as follows: Original, 298; in-496; re-issue, 43; restoration, 24; duplicate, 15; arrears, 0; accrued pensions, 26; pensions under act of March 3, 1883, 119; total, 1,021.

WE regret to learn that the negotiations which have been going on for the past few weeks with a view to effecting a union of the rival branches of the Sons of Veterans have failed to accomplish their object. We have hopes, however, that a basis of consolidation will yet be agreed upon.

READ the interesting account published in our department of "Loyal Woman's Work," this week, of the anniversary of George De Long Post, of Honolulu, Sandwich Islands. Even in that far-off land the camp-fires of the Grand Army burn brightly.

POSTMASTER - GENERAL GRESHAM bas

issued the following order: It appearing that certain persons have been practicing systematic frauds on ex-Union soldiers and their widows and orphans or other heirs, by mak- as to declare, in advance of the ing false representations concerning pension claims, and extorting Hiegal fees for services pretended to Department having reason to believe that some postsmesters have been siding these fraudulent claim agents by furnishing them with list of names of ex-Union soldiers and others supposed to be entitled to permions, and also by distributing their unaddressed circulars among that class: Therefore, postmenters are forbidden, hereafter, to furnish such list or to distribute any circulars of the kind indicated, unless they are addressed to some individual, and are prepaid as required by law.

W. Q. GRESHAM, So far as this order tends to checkmate

legitimate objects and those who seek it the ex-soldier to furnish him or his attorney with a view to ascertaining the ad-AT THE MUMBER ON THE WHAPPER OF THEIR PAPER, WHICH IS deprive the postmaster of the power to do City Times is not fit to enter the house of master-General should at once recall his of any ex-soldier. order and modify it so as to meet the objections to it which we have pointed out.

Thanksgiving Days, Past and Present. That Thanksgiving Day is now a national institution, instead of merely a festival peculiar to New England, as it used to be, is due to the war rather than to any other cause, and it is worthy of remembrance that it was the beloved Lincoln who first, by official proclamation, recommended its general observance. Lincoln, albeit no stickler for any particular form of worship, and attached to no particular creed, was, nevertheless, a devout believer in the existence of an overruling Providence, and even before his first inauguration-at the time, in fact, when he bade farewell to his Springfield friends, preparatory to making that memorable journey to the capital in the first troubled days of 1861-he declared that, like Washington, he placed his reliance upon the Divine aid. It was in accordance, indeed, with this sense of dependence upon the favor of Providence, when the war burst upon the country in all its fury and alternately victory or defeat befell our armies, that he was strongly impelled to seek, through the mediation public thanksgiving and public fasting and prayer, the support and protection of the Almighty. There never was, perhaps, a Nation so deeply imbued with religious feeling as our own from the outbreak of the rebellion until its close, and it responded to the frequent appeals of Mr. Lincoln to seek the Divine intercession with a fervor and alacrity that it is not difficult to comprehend. Just as the public mind, cast down by the news of fresh reverses to our arms, welcomed as a grateful relief from the suspense and anxiety of the hour the President's call to fasting and prayer, so, when the star of the Union cause shone in the ascendant again, and the God of battles seemed once more to have lifted up His strong right arm in our defense, it responded with eagerness and keen enthusiasm to 5th Page. - News of the Week -Sons of Ver. his proclamation of a national Thanksgiving Day. The impression which the recurrence of this season of festivity created upon the Nation has never been effaced. The New England custom, suggestive chiefly of homecomings and festal reunions of families that time and circumstance had enticed from the old homestead, took on a new meaning and thanksgiving for the safety of the Republic and the general welfare became the ruling purpose of the observance.

> Blessed were those Thanksgiving days of twenty years ago when from every heart went up a prayer for the preservation of the Union, and gratitude to the soldier was the theme alike of pulpit invocation and household conversation !

The times have changed since then. It is for bountiful crops, thriving industries, and spreading commerce chiefly that the preacher now offers thanks, and, assembled about the hospitable board, the public no longer takes thought of the men by whose sacrifices the peace and prosperity of the country were assured. O. ungrateful Nation, pause for a moment in the midst of your festivities, and look around you! What has been the fate of those to whom you pledged eternal gratitude and remembrance? How many, this day, neglected and uncared for, are denied a share in the feasting? How many, crushed with poverty and disease, are awaiting with hungry eyes the fulfilment of the Nation's promises? Yet, oh! if there be a day in all the year which, more than any other, should bring to these veterans surcease of sorrow and suffering, it surely is this which had its origin in the extollation of their valor and he unselfishness of their services.

The coming Thanksgiving Day will be but a cold and hollow share if it does not inspire in the hearts of the celebrants a fresh concern for the welfare of our veterans and a devout desire to lift and lighten the burdens of their declining years.

Draw the Line! Our ex-soldiers should not fail to draw the line between newspapers which treat them with justice and thoughtful consideration and those which constantly slander and ill-use them. Here, for instance, is the Kansas City (Mo.) Times, which professes to be a reputable and reliable journal, yet, having published the list of pensioners have been or promised to be rendered, and this "our pension system is falling to pieces of its own rottenness!" In support of this bold and brutal assertion what evidence more than any other of the newspapers the pension list and boasted of the monstrous frauds which its publication was certain to uncover, only to find, to their amazement.

ans from one of their chief sources of aid | eral that "a careful examination of the penin obtaining the evidence necessary to the | sions allowed heretofore has failed to show any establishment of their pension claims. The considerable number of fraudulent pensions, foregoing ruling makes no discrimination and I am of the opinion that not one-half of whatever between persons who apply to one per cent. allowed were wrongfully allowed." postmasters for information to be used for In the face of a declaration like this, coming from an official who, of all men, is in a posimore effectually to earry out their swindles, | tion to know the exact character of the and it, therefore, subjects the former to un- pension list, how can any newspaper that necessary hardship. There is no feason in respects the truth indulge in wholesale the world why a postmaster should not be charges of fraud against our pensioners? The allowed to comply with the request of an very fact that it does so is sufficient reason, in our judgment, for prenouncing it untrustcomrades, worthy and unscrupulous and unworthy alike of public credence and public patrondress of an essential witness in a pension age. A newspaper which resorts to such case, yet, the effect of this new order is to | malicious representations as the Kansas It seems to us, therefore, that the Post- any respectable citizen-much less the home

> The Farragut Prize Money. The magnificent paval operations on the lower Mississippi, under Farragut, which extended from April 18 to April 25, 1862, and which resulted in the fall of New Orleans and the permanent occupation of that city, as well as a large portion of the territory of Louisiana, by the armies of the Union during the remainder of the war, resulted also in the capture, by our naval forces, numbering some forty ships of varying size and armament, of thirty-four vessels, including five vessels of war, and some 16,000 tons of coal, aggregating in value \$966.120. These vessels and stores, under the laws of the United States, became at once prizes of war, and their capture entiprize money, as follows: Value of vessels and stores, \$966,120; bounty for destruction vessels, \$268,600; salvage due and awarded, 46,000-total, \$1,280,720. The of this claim, and the claimants were com-Boston; Thomas J. Durant, of Washington, and G. V. Fox, Assistant Secretary of the Navy, who reported as follows:

First.-That the capture was not a conjoint operation of the army and navy of the United States. Second.-That forty vessels whose names are given participated in the capture.

Third,-That twenty-nine vessels were captured and five vessels of war in process of construction nd 16,000 tons of coal. Fourth.-That the value of each of these vessels

eparately, of the coal and unfinished vessels, ag-

Fifth.-That all this property was lawful prize of war and lawfully subjected to condemnation as

Sixth.-That in the engagement which resulted n the capture of these ships the entire force of states ships engaged; we therefore allow the capors the value of the vessels and \$46,000 for salvage due thereon, making a total of \$1,012,120.

question, but as there was not money of the appropriation to settle the claim, smount awarded there had been paid on the | will be executed in the spirit in which they first installment \$603,520; on the second installment, \$362,600, and for legal and court expenses--none of which the claimants should have been forced to incur-\$142,411. making a total of \$1,108,531, leaving the balance due the claimants \$172.189.

Bills making appropriations to meet this balance were introduced in the 45th, 46th and last Congress. In the 45th Congress the bill was referred to a special committee, consisting of Senators Newton Booth, of California, and W. W. Eaton, of Connecticut but, although this committee reported favorably, no action was taken. During the same session the House committee also reported favorably, but the House, like the Senate, failed to take action. In the 47th Congress, we believe, no report whatever

was made from the committees. We take it for granted that a new bill will he introduced at the next Congress, and we trust it will be passed. There is no question whatever as to the validity of the claim. The value of the property captured by our naval forces at New Orleans has been accurately ascertained; the amount due those who participated in that capture has been legally certified and determined by decree of the Supreme Court of this District. Had there the time that decree was issued, the Secretary of the Treasury would undoubtedly have been compelled to settle the claim in full. It was only because the appropriation had been exhausted, and not because of any question as to the validity of the claim, that it became necessary to take an appeal to Congress. The question is, therefore, simply whether Congress will repudiate this claim and thereby bring disgrace and dishonor upon the Nation, as well as subject the claimants to the endless suffering and privation which its failure to pay them the money which is their due will entail upon them, or whether it will respect the decree of the courts and the promises of the Government to those who, without the bounty inducements which were held out to the soldier, engaged in the naval service of the Government, and appropriate at its next session the money which is required to satisfy this claim in full? In other words. does the Times offer? Not a scintilla! No it is a question of repudiation or the payment of an honest debt, and it will not be which have made a great parade of printing | through any fault of THE TRIBUNE if the | find something of personal interest to himself. Senators and Representatives of the 48th It will not be necessary for our correspond Congress fail to recognize the importance of ent to dwell upon the fact that THE TRIBthis issue. If the Government cannot afford | UNE is the largest and cheapest journal of its that no disclosure of fraud, whatever fol- to ignore the obligation which rests upon it class in the country, for that will be readily

ter-General that, in forbidding postmasters incapable of being sustained by credible afford to refuse payment of the claims of ing unity of effort among ex-soldiers and a members of the Post as subscribers. This to furnish the names of soldiers to any ap- evidence. So lately as November 9, even, the Farragut veterans when their validity larger consideration on the part of Congress is an excellent example for other Posts to plicant therefor, he is cutting off our veter- | Secretary Teller wrote the Attorney-Gen- | has been passed upon and definitely affirmed

The letter from the Hon. Secretary of the

Interior to the Commissioner of Pensions,

in regard to the construction that should be

placed upon section 4707 Revised Statutes,

providing for pensions to dependent moth-

A Sound Decision.

ers, which we publish in another column this week, will be read with interest, we are sure, by every one of our readers, for its effect will be to very greatly liberalize the practice of the Pension Office, and bring about the allowance of claims which, under the rules heretofore in vogue in the Pension Office, would necessarily have been rejected. No abler, juster, or more patriotic decision has ever been rendered in connection with the interpretation of pension laws than is rendered in this clear, logical and publicspirited letter from the Secretary of the Interior. He bases his conclusions not simply on the technical language of the law, but upon its obvious intent and purpose, and he very truly says that "the statute was enacted to give the dependent relatives some compensation for the damage they have sustained by the loss of the persons on whom they did, in fact, depend, or might depend under the law, for their support, and must have a liberal construction, so as to include persons that, from all the eireumstances and words of the statute, the legislative mind must have included at the time of its passage." Hitherto the disposition has been to exclude from the benefits of this statute all mothers who were not actually dependent for support upon the son's labor at the time tled those participating, in that event, to of his death, notwithstanding the fact that the mother might, at any time thereafter, become dependent, and that, had the life of her son not been sacrificed in the service of the Government, she could have looked to Government, however, resisted the payment | him for support whenever the occasion for it arose. The mistake that has been made, pelled to sue for it in the courts. The case | therefore, in interpreting the law has been was brought up in the courts of this District, in supposing that Congress, when it passed after the war, and was referred to a board of it, did not contemplate this possibility. To stand by the soldier without regard to rearbiters, consisting of Henry W. Paine, of argue that it did not contemplate such a possibility is evidently absurd, since the mother was entitled to the aid of her son, not simply during the period of his service in the army until his death, but for the whole period thereafter, and until her own death, and in recognizing her claim to pension, it was the future, as well as the immediate, dependence of the mother that it undertook to provide for. This is clear, as Secretary Teller declares, alike from the circumstances of the enactment of the statute and the language employed therein; yet, it is a fact that through the narrow interpretathe enemy was superior to the force of the United | tion of the law, which has hitherto obtained, the needy mothers of many a brave and gallant soldier have been compelled to bat-On May 1, 1873, in accordance with the | the single-handed with poverty and disease. report of the arbiters, the Supreme Court of | Loyal and patriotic people everywhere will be glad to know that the uncertainties which so long have hung about the operation of the statute providing for the penenough in the Treasury to the credit sioning of dependent mothers have finally all been brushed away by this just and it became necessary to apply to Congress for | clear-sighted decision of the Secretary of the passage of a bill providing for the pay- the Interior, and it will be taken as a sign Of the total that hereafter the pension laws as a whole

Instructions to a Club Raiser.

We are in receipt of the following letter To the Editor NATIONAL TRIBUNE: There are a number of ex-soldiers residing in this neighborhood, and a promising Post of the Grand Army has recently been established here, but I find that comparatively few of these veterans are subscribers to THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE. I am sure, however, that they would all take it were they as well acquainted with its merits as I am, and if you will send me some sample copies and instruct me how to proceed, I will gladly undertake VETERAN.

Nothing could be easier than to furnish our correspondent the instructions which he

In the first place, he should prepare a list containing the name and address of every ex-soldier of his acquaintance, so that he may be able to make a thorough and systematic canvass. Then he should take his bundle of sample copies and personally hand one to each comrade on the list, pointing out at the same time its special features, and asking him to read it carefully, and say frankly what he thinks of it. If our correspondent is a member of a Post, he may find it more convenient to take his sample copies with him to the Post room and distribute them among his comrades there, and in every number he will find some article that if read been sufficient money in the Treasury at aloud would entertain and interest the whole Post. But whatever method he may take to bring THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE to the attention of his old companions in arms, he will find that while some will be glad to subscribe on the spot, others will put him off with one excuse or another, and it will depend upon his persistence whether he finally secures their subscriptions or not. It is the experience of most of our club-raisers that. while everybody is delighted with the character and objects of THE TRIBUNE at first Department Headquarters through the Comsight, a personal reminder is often necessary to actually secure the subscription, and our correspondent, therefore, will do well to call on every veteran on his list, after the latter has had the opportunity to give the paper a thorough reading, and, if he has not already made up his mind to subscribe, give him an other copy. The contents of THE TRIBUNE varies so from week to week, -and especially that part of it which is devoted to the publication of military reminiscences from the rank and file,-that no matter to what command a soldier belonged, he can hardly fail to the swindles of unscrapulous pension attor- lowed, is the Kansas City Times able to offer to pension such of our ex-soldiers as are seen on the most casual inspection, but he not seem to have occurred to the Postmas- fact is that such reckless statements are war for its preservation, it certainly cannot rades the value of such a medium in secur- hope to procure at least 75 out of the 130 B, 3d lows cav.

and the public for their rights.

As to the manner in which a club should be formed, and the mode of transmitting subscriptions, we may say to our correspondent that he may forward the names and money as fast as he obtains them, and they will be duly credited to the club which he is engaged in raising, while, as far as compensation for his time and trouble is concerned, he will find abundant room for choice in the tempting list of premiums which we printed in our last issue, and of which we will send a copy to any address desired, without charge. In this way, for a club of ten subscribers, he can, among other things, secure a fine Waterbury watch, in a satin-lined case, warranted to keep good time, and pronounced by those of our readers who have tested its merits the equal of the best chronometer

An Important Question Answered. An ex-soldier, who is not a member of the Grand Army, and who is in doubt as to whether he ought to join it or not, writes us, inquiring what benefit it will be to him to become a member of the Order, and, inasmuch as there are doubtless many others who have that question on their lips, we will endeavor to answer it here plainly

frankly, and once and for all. What will the Grand army do for those of our ex-soldiers who have not as yet sought membership in it? We answer-1. It will bind together the boys who wore the blue in fraternal union, and contribute to their happiness and social enjoyment. 2. It will render substantial aid to poor, dependent, crippled, and diseased comrades and their families, and care for destitute widows and orphans. 3. It will take from a pauper's home every man who wore the blue. 4. It will aid in procuring employment for those who have strength to earn their own livelihood, and of its own ample means succor the helpless. 5. It will insure a decent burial and an honored grave to every comrade who falls by the way. 6. It will ligion, nationality or party, and promote, by the exemplification of its three cardinal principles, Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

the interests of the soldier and the country. The Grand Army is not a mere name, but a living, vital force, reaching to the farthest limits of the land, and permeating every community. Not to be a member of it, so far as a soldier is concerned, is not to know what home is. There ought to be a Post of the Grand Army in every city, town, and village of the country where there are enough ex-soldiers to sustain one, and THE TRIBUNE will be happy to furnish blank application for charter to any honorably-discharged ex-soldier who is so unfortunate as to reside in a place to which the friendly arms of the Grand Army have not yet been outstretched. The following, which we take from the admirable circular of instructions, issued by As sistant Adjutant-General Bennett, of the Department of Illinois, are the chief points to be borne in mind in organizing new Posts of the Grand Army:

If you desire to organize a Grand Army Post, anvass the situation, and determine whether you have a sufficient number of active, intelligent veteran soldiers in your neighborhood to make it a success. If not, there is little use in organizing, for a lack of interest or ability to collect sufficient dues for running expenses would speedily cause a

Be careful to select persons to take the initiatory steps who are unobjectionable so far as social and political matters are concerned. The political party to which they may belong makes little difference, but it must not look as though the move was made for political purposes, if the Post is to succeed. This petition should be signed by at least ten ex-soldiers or sailors eligible to membership in the Grand Army. The test of eligibility is an honorable discharge from the service of the United States between April 12, 1861, and April 9, 1865. Soldiers belonging to State regiments, in active service under the orders of United States general officers, are also eligible,

When preparing the petition, it would be well to collect from each signer such sum as may be thought sufficient to meet the expenses of organization and procure a place for meeting. One dollar is the

smallest sum which may be received. When the petition is prepared, send it with charter fee (\$10) and such additional amount (varying, according to the various Department requirements, from \$5 to \$10) for supplies, as may be stated on the application for charter, to THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE. which will see that the proper authorities receive t, and that the necessary arrangements for muster are made. This will be the total expense of organization, except the local expenses, which can best be judged of on the spot. The practice has been to pay the local expenses of the mustering officer. Select some person to correspond in regard to ime of muster, and when the time is set, see that all applicants are notified. At least ten should be

esent for muster-in. Blanks will be forwarded for name and record of applicants, which may be filled out before the night of muster, to save time on that occasion.

Upon the night of muster it will be necessary to elect officers. The officers of a Post are: Com- said order until some poor fellow was shot mander, Senior and Junior Vice Commanders, down. Chaplain, Surgeon, Officer of the Day, Officer of the I did not intend, when commencing this Quartermaster-Sergeant. The Adjutant is ap- life; I merely wish to introduce myself to the pointed by the Commander, and the Sergeant- readers of THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE, many of Major and Quartermaster-Sergeant are also ap- whom, no doubt, will know me well, and in pointed by the Commander upon the recommenda- the near future, with the permission of the tion of the Adjutant and Quartermaster respect- editor, I will tell some things about Anderson-

The duties of these officers are as follows: The Commander presides at the Post meetings, and in in the order of their rank; the Chaplain's duties are indicated by his title; the Adjutant keeps the records of the Post, and makes a quarterly report to Department Headquarters through the Commander; the Quartermaster keeps the funds of the Post, and also makes a quarterly report to mander, forwarding therewith the per capita tax due from Posts to Department Headquarters.

DURING the past week we have received the following additional subscriptions to the Steedman fund:" W. G. Ogden, Washington, Kan..... 80 25

W. H. Webb, Elk Falls, Kan .. "Friend," Port Severn, Ontario, Canada ..... War Relief Corps, Canton, Ohio. L. M. Kimball, Kentville, Nova Scotla...... C. L. Dewey, Hawk Eye, Iowa... Member, Co. I, 26th Connecticut, Great Barrington, Mass ..

Previously acknowledged.

COMRADE HENRY GUCKERT, Marietts, Ohio, writes us that Buell Post, No. 178, of that place, has appointed a committee, consisting of himself and Comrades A. S. Hall and H. J. Miller, to solicit subscriptions to

follow. It is the universal experience that where THE TRIBUNE has the most subscribers the interest in Grand Army matters is most active and the Post most prosperous.

As will be seen by reference to his sixth week, General Howard has now reached a point in his narrative where we may expect to be favored with his personal recollections of the battles in which he participated, and where also his statements are likely to exevents immediately preceding Bull Run, and in our next issue will appear his account of the battle itself. It will be conceded by Howard's articles are among the most entertaining, stirring and thoughtful that have appeared since the war.

So great has become the volume of our correspondence that it is no longer possible for us to notify our contributors of the precise date at which their communications will appear, but all manuscripts that cannot be used at once will be carefully edited and preserved for publication as opportunity may offer. We refer, of course, only to such panot expect us to file away, or return at our own expense, letters of passing interest only, and containing simply expressions of private opinions touching current topics.

A MORE attractive list from which select Christmas presents could scarcely be prepared than the premium list which appeared in our issue of November 15th, and we trust our readers, old and young, will at once set about raising new clubs of subscribers, and thus become entitled to some one of

READ the interview with Commissioner Dudley, published in another column. regard to the publication of the pension list. brought to light by it exist only in the diseased imagination of the soldier's enemies.

As THIS is November - the month pumpkin-pies and big TRIBUNE clubs-we shall look to every reader to devote at least one day of the month to recruiting THE sand subscribers should now be forthcoming.

One of Howard's Peculiarities.

To the Editor NATIONAL TRIBUNE: You could not induce me to go without THE TRIBUNE-at any rate not until General Howard gets through with his personal reminiscences of the war. I am well pleased with the way he commences, and I have no doubt it will be just as interesting to the end. I had no though he once commanded the corps to which I belonged. I remember him as the one-armed general, and have often seen him on the field. Another peculiarity of his-so different from most generals-was his treatment of his personal guard. Woe be to the soldier who used profane language, or drank whisky! If he found it out, he was returned to his regiment

The paper is exceedingly interesting, especially to old soldiers, and I cannot conceive how any of them can do without it. Every old soldier in the United States ought take G. O. POND. Yours,

Late Serg't, 73d Reg. Ill. Vols. CAMP POINT, ILL.

Can the Government Refuse to Pension Our Ex-Prisoners !

To the Editor NATIONAL TRIBUNE:

I consider THE TRIBUNE worth five times its subscription price to any soldier. I was a member of company I, 22d Indiana veteran volunteers, and since discharge have never met one of my old comrades. I take great interest in the reading of sketches of prison life, as I was there myself and know-notwithstanding what Beck and others may say-that one-half of the horrors of Andersonville will never be told until the last great day, when all things shall be made plain. In the meantime, however. I think it perfectly right that those who were so fortunate as to escape even with constitutions wrecked by this hell of hells should keep the matter before the public, that all generations to come may know the terrible suffering the soldiers of the North endured for the sake of home and country. Sam. Boggs, of Kansas, comes to the front in the issue of October 18, and tells some solid facts. Yes, I knew several men shot down for speaking to a guard. The true hellishness of this will appear to a better advantage when I tell you that the prison authorities would allow the guards for days at a time to talk, barter and trade this barter and trade always was a chew of tobacco for a button) with the prisoners; then the guards would receive orders to shoot the first Yankee who spoke to them; and the unfortunate prisoners never knew anything about

ville and Florence Prisons. I am of the opinion that all we have to do in order to secure ample pensions from the Government that we suffered his absence the S. V. C. and J. V. C. take his place | so terribly and patiently to save is to let the public know the terrible truth more fully.

The men who represent us in Congress are A. C. RANARD.

WHEATLAND, CASS CO., DAKOTA. At the meeting of the ex-soldiers and sailors,

Inclosed picase find \$6 for six new subscribers.— Thos. W. Meers, John L. Bashore Post, No. 122, Centerville, Iowa. Inclosed please find \$6 for six new subscribers to THE TRIBUNE, making eight in all that I have sent you.-Peter Riley, Fort Scott, Kan.

in Greenlawn cemetery.

## SMALL TALK

About Men and Things.

A clamor has been made about pension frauds by the discovery of a few alleged cases of dishonest practice among attorneys. To judge from the tone of some of the Washington dispatches to the press of the country, it would appear that all applicants for pensions are perjurers, or simpletons, who are being gulled monograph, published on our first page, this by their attorneys, and that all the legal representatives of claimants are engaged in a whole. sale attempt to defrand the Government and not their clients. On the other hand, a moment's reflection would convince any reasonble person that if all the alleged cases of fraud that have come to the notice of the Pension Office are true, it shows that pensioners and cite animated discussion. In this number their attorneys are, as a class, far more honest the General brings his experiences down to | than bankers, railroad managers, or merchants. A less proportion of the one class have been questioned as to their honesty than the other. Of the 16,000 pension attorneys of the country who have been recognized before the Pension all our readers, we are sure, that General Office, only about a baker's dozen have been accused of illegal practices. This is a record which speaks eloquently for the integrity of the elaimants and their representatives, and until the pulpit of the country at least can show as good a record, there seems to be little ground for the recent howl.

A representative of THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE called upon Commissioner Dudley, the other morning, and talked to him upon a question about which a great deal has been said, and, as usual, it was found that when the facts were ascertained, the expectations of the pessimists did not pan out.

"I wish to inquire," said the TRIBUNE representative, "whether or not the publication pers, records, reminiscences, &c., of the war of the voluminous pension lists has led to the as possess positive value. Our readers can- disclosure of any large amount of frauds, as was predicted would be the result of the issuing of he document!

Commissioner Dudley responded: "No; next to nothing of the kind has transpired. We have received a number of letters from communities where the list was published, giving names of certain persons on the roll who were dead. We know it ourselves, however, and their names were published in this way: We prepared the roll and sent it to the printer, giving the names of those on the list January 1, 1883. Of course, among such a vast number of persons some are dying every day, and as about ten months lapsed between the date of the making up of he rolls and the publication, quite a number died in the meantime. It does not follow because a pensioner's name appears on the roll now, that his pension is being paid after he is dead and gone. It only shows that at the date of the preparation of the roll for the printer, either the pensioner was alive or his demise had not yet been reported to the office."

"Have you actually detected any frauda from the publication of the names and addresses of the pensioners?" Nothing of any consequence," replied Gen. Dudley. "There have been complaints for-

warded to this office in but three or four cases out of all the hundreds of thousands on the roll, and, of course, these may be shown to be all right upon investigation." It would seem, therefore, that the inkhorn

must be about dry in this crusade against men who only ask a pittance in their old age to compensate them in their declining years for a thousand times risking a violent death to save the Constitution of their forefathers for the benefit of the generations to come. A Government official remarked to-day, in

discussing the question of claims which it is said are filed without the prospect of success: "Such talk is mere nonsense, and comes from sources hostile to the payment of any claim. Who knows whether a claim can be allowed or not till it has been heard? Again, many claims for pension have but little of the evidence in support of the case required by the Pension Office when first filed, and in the end are allowed. It is a long time ago that the disabilities were incurred. Look over your own acquaintances. How much difficulty would personal acquaintance with General Howard, you have in finding people enough, who either knew or remembered the facts about any lawsuit you might want to bring in the courts? You would find, if you should attempt it, that years or months of search and no telling what expense would be necessary, before you would be able to produce the evidence which on first thought you might suppose would cost you no trouble of all. Just so with a pension claim. There may be next to no evidence obtainable for a long while after the claim is filed, but in time it may all come in. You may discover by accident the address of just the man you want, but who has eluded your search for years. But suppose, in the end, you cannot find these persons at all, whose affidavits the Pension Office requires. Your case is disallowed, and then, and not till then, have you a right to go to the Congress of the United States for ustice by a special act. If a claimant commits a fraud by filing a claim at the Pension Office without the evidence to put it through, how is he ever to get justice from Congress? The first question asked by the Pension Committee in Congress would be: Have you laid your casa before the Pension Office? If not, you will be told to take it there. That is the place to settle pension claims, except in extraordinary cases, where it can be shown that there is equity in the case, but the evidence demanded by the office cannot be found. It is no presumption of fraud against a pensioner that he has delayed the application till his witnesses are all dead. Many a man did not file his application years ago because he did not need Now perhaps he does and his right is not impaired because he did not see fit to exercise

it before. It lives as long as he lives." Word is received from General Henderson, of Illinois, that he intends to press his bill in Congress this winter to correct an injustice done many officers and their heirs by a technicality in the present law. It often happened that men were promoted while in the field or in the midst of a campaign, and it was weeks or months before the fact was noted on the muster-rolls. Perhaps he was killed or died, and it was never fixed. In all these cases his bounty and pension is rated according to the muster-rolls. By this showing he might have been commissioned and acting as captain for months and still appear as a lientenant on the rolls. General Henderson's bill proposes to adjust the bounty and pension claims of all officers according to the date of the commission, and not leave it to the hanhazzard circumstance of the correction of the muster. It is reported that a number of influential members of the House have premised General Henderson to help him put this measure through during the

The Hon. Wm. M. Springer, of Illinois, has reached the capital. He says he is a candidate for Speaker, and hopes to get the most votes on the last ballot.

Secretary Teller remarked to a representative of THE TRIBUNE recently, that he would recommend the cutting down of the Indian reservations this winter. He thinks an Indian ought not to act the dog in the manger and men of understanding, and if they but know | keep two or three square miles of land when he the half of the terrible truth they must know | does not use, on an average, one acre of it, and that no man who experienced prison life for the Government offers to pay him all it is any length of time could possibly come out | worth, in order to throw it open to settlement, with a sound constitution. The filth of the A regiment of old soldiers could make good prison bred disease; vermin that they had no homes for themselves by applying their time power to extirpate were continually sucking | which they served in the army to residence, our very life itself away; there was no shelter | under the homestead law, upon the territory from the sun by day or the frost by night, and | now held sacred for two or three little bands of last, but not least, starvation stared us con- lazy savages, whom the Government has to feed stantly in the face. Yes, thousands upon thou- regularly any way, and for which men who sands of brave men starved to death in a land | will work are taxed. There are some evidences of plenty, and their bones were left in the sand- that the Boston theory of dealing with the hills of Georgia. Those who survived are, savages has about run its length. It is undermany of them, wrecks in life. Was there ever stood that Senator Logan, who visited the a government known that would refuse to aid Sioux on the Great Dakota reservation last such men; will our Government do so? Cer- summer, will have some pertinent remarks to make when the matter comes up in Congress. He says that the Government has coaxed and pampered Sitting Bull and Red Cloud till these gentlemen imagine the United States is in at Columbus, Ohio, on the 9th inst., a commit- deadly fear of them, and they act accordingly. tee on arrangements was organized for the pur- Old Sitting Bull was found with a fine twopose of carrying out the determination of the association to have a suitable monument erected papered within, built for him by the Governover the graves of the Franklin county soldiers | ment. He was living in a miserable tepee in the yard, while the house was empty, except that it was littered with all kinds of filth and refuse, which had been deposited there to show the contempt of the Indian for the gift of the Government, as well as for want of a more convenient receptacle for offal.

Inclosed please find \$6 for six new subscribers to THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE. As premium yet may send me Army of the Cumberland."—J. G. Me-Kibben, McCune, Kan.